

Alberta Treasury

Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5 TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	August			
Alberta	163	0.0%	19.9%	The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. The index for Nova Scotia (-2.4%), Ontario (-1.6%), and British Columbia (-0.7%) fell in June. Quebec (2.5%), Manitoba (1.8%), and Prince Edward Island (1.3%) had the largest gains. Alberta (19.9%) had the second highest year over year increase behind Prince Edward Island (25%).
Canada	170	-0.6%	5.6%	
Building Permits (\$ millions)	July			
Alberta	300.3	-34.5%	-32.6%	Total building permits decreased by 34.5% in Alberta in July. Residential and non-residential permits fell by 23.1% and 47.4% respectively, led by significant reduction in housing intentions in the Calgary metropolitan area. Nationally, during the first seven months, building permits were down 2.6% over the same period in 1999.
Canada	3,095.3	0.0%	-2.6%	
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates	2Q, 2000 87.9%	0.4 ^a	4.1% ^b	In 2Q, 2000, the utilization of Canada's industrial capacity rose for the seventh consecutive quarter, driven by increases in manufacturing, particularly in the high-tech sector. Unit labour costs, however, have remained stable due to the increase in labour productivity (+2.1% in the goods sector in 1999 over 1998) brought about by strong business investment in high technology plant and equipment.

^a From 1st quarter 2000

^b From 2nd quarter 1999